

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A flue cleaner comprising an enclosed container having an opening providing restricted communication between the interior and exterior of the enclosed container, the enclosed container being formed of a non-combustible heat resistant material for placement in a stove or fireplace in which a fuel is to be burnt, the interior of the enclosed container containing a soot removal agent generating cleaning vapors when heated by the [fire]combustion of said fuel in the stove or fireplace, said enclosed container and said opening being sized and shaped to exhaust said vapors to clean the flue of the stove or fireplace, wherein said fuel does not pass through said enclosed container and wherein said soot removal agent does not act as a catalyst in the combustion of said fuel.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container is formed of metal.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container is formed of steel.

4. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the opening is closed by a closure formed of a material which will be consumed slowly upon the flue cleaner being

placed in a fire.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is encased within the enclosed container within a settable composition which will harden once being introduced into the enclosed container and which will be consumed slowly upon the flue cleaner being placed in a fire.

6. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 5 wherein the composition comprises a mixture of sawdust and a binding agent.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 6 wherein the composition controls and restricts the [combustion]consumption of the [sawdust]soot removal agent when the flue cleaner is [placed in a fire]subjected to the heat generated by the combustion of said fuel.

8. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is selected from zinc, tin, aluminum or any combination thereof.

9. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is coated on a substrate.

10. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 9 wherein the substrate comprises a metal foil and/or sheeting.

11. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent comprises a quantity of particles and/or granules of the soot removal agent.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is formed as a single body.

13. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 12 wherein the soot removal agent is formed as an ingot.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container comprises a length of tube, at least one end of the tube being open.

15. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 14 said at least one end being partially closed.

16. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 15 said at least one end being partially closed by an inwardly directed flange to define the opening.

17. (ORIGINAL) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 14 wherein the tube has a substantially elliptical cross-section and each end is provided with a dumbbell or "figure-8" profile.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein said soot removing agent generates soot removing vapors when subjected to heat to clear soot and residue; and

wherein said opening is sized and shaped to restrict the release of said vapors to render the flue cleaner effective for an extended period of time.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A flue cleaner comprising a containment vessel arranged and constructed for placement in a stove or fireplace in which a fuel is to be burnt and having an opening providing restricted communication between the interior and exterior of the vessel, the vessel being formed of a non-combustible heat resistant material, the interior of the enclosed container containing a soot removal agent generating soot removing vapors when said container is [placed in fire]heated by the combustion of said fuel;

wherein said fuel does not pass through said containment vessel and wherein said soot removal agent does not act as a catalyst in the combustion of said fuel, and;

wherein the vessel comprises a length of tube, at least one end of the tube being

partially closed by an inwardly directed flange to define the opening, said opening releasing said vapors to clean the flue of the stove or fireplace.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A flue cleaner for cleaning the flue or chimney of a stove or fireplace **[while a fire is burning therein]in which a fuel is to be burnt**, said flue cleaner comprising:

an enclosed container forming a containment vessel made of a non-combustible heat resistant material; and

a soot removing agent generating soot removing vapors **[when subjected to heat]** to clear soot and residue from the flue **or chimney** of the stove or fireplace **when said soot removing agent is subjected to heat generated by the combustion of said fuel;**

**wherein said fuel does not pass through said containment vessel and wherein said soot removal agent does not act as a catalyst in the combustion of said fuel, and;**

wherein said containment vessel has opening means sized and shaped to release said vapors in a restricted manner to render the flue cleaner effective for an extended period of time when said enclosed container is disposed in the **[fire]stove or fireplace** by releasing said soot removing vapors.

21. (WITHDRAWN) A method of cleaning a flue or chimney of a combustion chamber

comprising:

starting a fire in said combustion chamber, said fire generating combustion gases that are exhausted through said chimney or flue; and

providing in said combustion chamber an enclosed container including a soot removing agent and having an opening, wherein said fire causes said soot removing agent to generate soot removing vapors that are exhausted from said combustion chamber through said opening, said vapors mixing with said combustion gases and flowing through said flue or chimney to remove soot therefrom.